

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident - Removal Polrep

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**Region IX**

**Subject: POLREP #4**  
**Cleaning of Outdoor Areas begins**  
**Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident**

**Maywood, CA**  
**Latitude: 33.9961640 Longitude: -118.2011630**

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Jeff Reeb, LACo OEM  
Ruben Martinez, City of Maywood  
Silvia Prieto, LACoPH  
William Jones, LACoFD HHMD  
Tony Payne, LACoFD HHMD  
Stella Fogleman, LACoPH  
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Mary Matthews, EPA  
Tood Painton, Vernon Fire Department  
Ashu Palta, LACoOEM  
Carey Lewis, USCG PST  
Alejandro Diaz, USEPA  
Soledad Calvino, USEPA  
Carlin Hafiz, USEPA

**From:** Michelle Rogow, OSC

**Date:** 6/26/2016

**Reporting Period:** 6/23/16 - 6/26/16

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A9AP	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	6/14/2016	<b>Start Date:</b>	6/14/2016
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

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<p><b>1.1.1 Incident Category</b></p> <p>Magnesium fire at a metal recycling and stripping company.</p> <p><b>1.1.2 Site Description</b></p> <p>On June 14, 2016 at approximately 0200 hours, a fire started at Panda International Trading (PIT) located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood, CA. Fruitland Ave. is a commercial/light manufacturing district. The facility holds two businesses, PIT and SOKOR Metals. PIT is a scrap metal yard that send scrap metal out in bulk for recovery. SOKOR is a precious metals recovery operation that recovers precious metals from circuit boards and other electronics. The site originally consisted of several buildings, but all were destroyed in the fire.</p>				
<p>During the fire approximately 300 people on</p>				<p>Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy</p>
	<p><b>Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy</b></p>			
<p>Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy</p>	<p>2016, by LACoFD. The homes of the Street that borders the site have remained evacuated due to the presence of ash throughout the properties. Approximately 31 families remain evacuated and are staying at a Red Cross Shelter.</p>			
<p><b>1.1.2.1 Location</b></p> <p>The site is located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., Maywood, Los Angeles Co., CA 90702 (Latitude: 33.9961640 Longitude: -118.2011630). On the southern fence line of the site is a residential neighborhood of single family homes. To the north, east and west is are light industry.</p>				
<p><b>1.1.2.2 Description of Threat</b></p> <p>See POLREP No. 1.</p>				
<p><b>1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results</b></p> <p>See POLREP No. 1.</p> <p>In order to determined cleanup action levels, the Unified</p>				

Command created a Action Levels Working Group (ALWG). The ALWG is being led by OSC Michelle Rogow. The ALWG includes representatives from EPA R9, EPA ERT, ATSDR, LACoPH, and START. Some initial indoor air sampling data has been received, although most residential indoor air samples are pending. The data is currently being reviewed by the ALWG.

After a series of meetings of the ALWG, the group and Unified Command achieved consensus on a protocol for Residential Indoor Sampling, Cleaning and Verification. This protocol included agreement on the screening protocol for determination of whether a house would be subject to an indoor cleaning, based on the indoor air sampling which was completed on 6/25/16. The protocol also included secondary sampling using a micro vacuum for residences which did not meet the screening protocol and as part of the verification sampling process. Screening and action levels were agreed to by the ALWG and the Unified Command, and the documentation of the protocol and action levels is being routed for review and is targeted to be presented for UC signature on 6/27/16.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

See POLREP No. 2.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

##### June 24, 2016

Agencies Present: EPA, USCG, LACoFD, LACoPH, Vernon Fire Department (VFD), Los Angeles Co. Sheriffs (LACoSD) and DTSC

Contractors Present: START, ERRS, SERAS

- The Environmental Unit (ERT, START, SERAS) conducted indoor air sampling of 13 residences, soil sampling in 3 residential parcels and continued assessment sampling of facility property.
- FOSC Musante (Operations Section Chief) continued

planning efforts for indoor and outdoor cleaning of properties.

- The Investigations Branch continued work on the facility property, including an inspection of container and facility office.
- The Mitigation Branch (ERRS) assisted the Investigations Branch with heavy equipment support.
- Outdoor air monitoring and sampling was conducted in support of the Investigations Branch and general operations.
- Community Involvement and PIOs supported operations through communication and coordination with residents regarding access to the properties which were being sampled.
- The Action Level Working Group (ALWG) met throughout the day and night, working through concerns and potential action levels.

#### **June 25, 2016**

Agencies Present: EPA, USCG, LACoFD, LACoPH, VFD, VPD, and LACoSD

Contractors Present: START, ERRS, SERAS

- The Mitigation Branch (ERRS) began to conduct cleanup outdoor cleanup operations at a parcel, which contained 4 residences.
- Prior to outdoor cleanup, the Environmental Unit conducted photo documentation of the parcel.
- Installation of temporary fencing with geotextile barrier began around the facility perimeter.
- The Environmental Unit conducted indoor air sampling of ??? residences.
- Creation of Ash Cleanup and Assessment Team (ACAT) to assess visible ash in outdoor areas, document existing conditions, recommend cleanup, coordinate and communicate with residents during process, assess parcels after cleanup and recommend the parcel for sign-off by UC representatives and residents.
- The Mitigation Branch (ERRS) continued to conduct planning for indoor cleaning of residences.
- Outdoor air sampling continued to be conducted in support of general operations.

**June 26, 2016**

Agencies Present: EPA, USCG, LACoFD, LACoPH, VFD, VPD, and LACoSD

Contractors Present: START, ERRS, SERAS

- The Environmental Unit conducted photo documentation of outdoor areas which were recommended for outdoor cleanup.
- The Environmental Unit conducted secondary indoor air sampling of 2 residences.
- ACAT conducted visual ash assessments on 9 parcels today (8 parcels were previously assessed by LA County Fire during post fire damage assessment.) All 17 parcels on the **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** have been assessed.
- ACAT completed walk throughs of outdoor areas with residents/owners of 6 parcels.
- One parcel which was cleaned outdoors is ready for sign off from the UC representatives and the resident.
- Procedure for assessment of outdoor areas and signoff currently in development.
- The Mitigation Branch (ERRS) continued to conduct outdoor cleanup operations at 2 additional parcels (for a total of 3 to date).
- The Mitigation Branch (ERRS) continued to conduct planning for indoor cleaning of residences.
- Outdoor air sampling continued to be conducted in support of general operations.

**2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

See POLREP No. 3. The Investigations Branch served a search warrant on the site to collect criminal evidence.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**




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## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The activities for June 26, 2016 include:

- Conduct secondary air sampling in residences where indoor air samples were below screening levels;
- Continue planning for indoor cleaning of residences which exceeded screening levels;
- Continue ACAT assessments and coordination;
- Continue documentation and cleanup activities outside of residences which have been documented by ACAT to be impacted;
- Press conference and opening of the Community

## 2.3 Logistics Section

## 2.4 Finance Section

Information Center.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrival of additional resources from USCG to staff positions in the JIC and Operations Section.</li> </ul>				
<b>2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities</b>				
Removal operations will include the following:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of the evacuated residences;</li> <li>Cleaning of the residences on the site.</li> </ul>				Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
<b>Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>secondary indoor sampling;</li> <li>Assessment of the facility; and</li> <li>Removal of hazardous substances from the site.</li> <li>Production of additional fact sheets for affected residents and businesses.</li> </ul>				which
<b>2.2.2 Issues</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing need for access to the residences and coordination with displaced occupants during cleanup process;</li> <li>Data needs, quality and timing.</li> </ul>				
LACoPH is serving as the Logistics Section Chief for the Unified Command. The ERRS contractor is handling logistics for EPA				
See POLREP No. 1. Mary Matthews is serving as the Finance Section Chief for EPA.				
<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$500,000.00	\$1,649.00	\$168,351.00	33.67%
IAGs - PST	\$20,000.00	\$9,292.00	\$10,708.00	53.54%
TAT/START	\$380,537.00	\$52,260.00	\$228,277.00	59.99%

<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
USEPA - Direct	\$50,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$36,000.00	72.00%
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	\$950,537.00	\$607,201.00	\$443,336.00	46.64%

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

See POLREP No. 3. The Community Relations Section has been attached to the JIC, which is directly linked to the Unified Command.

A Mass Care Officer has been established as part of the Command Staff. This position will advise and coordinate with the UC regarding relocation and care efforts for the displaced residents.

A technical spec work group has been established for Action Levels and Protocol for Verification Sampling. This work group reports directly to the Unified Command.

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Unified Command

The Unified Commanders are EPA, LACoFD HHMS and LACoPH.

### 3.2 Cooperating Agencies

DTSC, DPSS, LACoOEM, LACoSD, VFD, VPD, SCAQMD, LACoISD; DTSC, EPA CID, City of Maywood, City of Vernon.

## 4. Personnel On Site

June 24, 2016:

EPA OSC: 2 (Musante, Rogow)

EPA ERT: 1 (Eskelsen)

EPA RSC: 1 (Matthews)

USCG PST: 1

USCG IMAT: 2

START: 4

SERAS: 2

ERRS: 9

June 25, 2016:

EPA OSC: 2

EPA ERT: 1

EPA RSC: 1

USCG PST: 1

USCG IMAT: 1

START: 4

SERAS: 2

ERRS: 9

June 26, 2016:

EPA OSC: 2

EPA ERT: 1

USCG PST: 1

USCG IMAT: 2

START: 3

SERAS: 2

ERRS: 9

## **5. Definition of Terms**

AQMD: South Coast Air Quality Management District

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations

CIC: Community Information Coordinator

Co.: County

DPSS: Department of Public Social Services

DTSC: Department of Toxic Substance

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

ERRS: Emergency and Rapid Removal Services (EPA Contractor)

ERT: Environmental Response Team

HCN: Hydrogen Cyanide

HHMD: Health Hazardous Materials Division

IMAT: Incident Management Team

LACoFD: Los Angeles County Fire Department

LACoOEM: Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management

LACoPH: Los Angeles County Public Health

LACoSD: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

NCP: National Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300)

OSC: On--Scene Coordinator

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PEL: Permissible Exposure Limit

PES: Patriot Environmental Services

PRP: Potentially Responsible Party

PST: Pacific Strike Team

PIT: Panda International Trading Co.

RM: Removal Manager

SERAS: Science, Engineering, Response and Analytical Support contractor

SOKOR: SOKOR Metals

START: Superfund Technical Assessment Response Team contractor

TDD: Technical Direction Document

TO: Task Order

TTLC: Total Threshold Limit Concentration

USCG: US Coast Guard

VFD: Vernon Fire Department

VOCs: Volatile Organic Compounds

VPD: Vernon Police Department

XRF: X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer

## **6. Additional sources of information**

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

The website for this site is located [www.epaossc.org/FruitlandMgFire](http://www.epaossc.org/FruitlandMgFire).

Additionally, site for the public has been set up at  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/fire/>

### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

The next POLREP will be June 29, 2016.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

See the IAPs in Documents Section.

